

Message Text

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64

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY S/ NM: HRWELLMAN: BB

7/3/73 EXT 28692

APPROVED BY S/ NM: HRWELLMAN

NEA/ RA: TGRANT (SUBS)

NEA/ INC: JHAWES (SUBS)

IO/ HDC: ENOZIGLIA (SUBS)

BNDD: DMILLER(SUB)

OMB: LHERMAN (SUBS)

S/ S: DWMILLER

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P 032223 Z JUL 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 130654

EXDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: NARCOTICS: OPIUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL
PURPOSES

REF: A) GENEVA 3157 B) NEW DELHI 6828

1. US INDUSTRY SUGGESTION FOR CONVENING INFORMAL
MEETING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF FEW INTERESTED COUNTRIES
TO DISCUSS WORLD OPIUM SUPPLY AND REQUIREMENT SITUATION
WAS BROUGHT TO DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION ON JUNE 21 BY
REPRESENTATIVE BURROUGHS WELLCOME, ONE OF SEVEN
FORMULATORS OF CODEINE PREPARATIONS AND A MAIN
CUSTOMER OF US CODEINE MANUFACTURERS (MALLINCKRODT AND
TWO OTHER COMPANIES). THUS, IT COMES AS NO SURPRISE
THAT MALLINCKRODT HAS PROPOSED TO GREENFIELD THAT SUCH
A MEETING BE HELD BEFORE INDIA MAKES DECISION ABOUT ITS
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1973-74 CROP. YOU STATE DITTERT HAS REQUESTED OUR
VIEWS ON A LATE AUGUST MEETING FOR THIS PURPOSE.

2. AS MALLINCKRODT AND OTHER INTERESTED US COMPANIES

ARE AWARE, USG IS NOW ENGAGED IN AN INTENSIVE INTERAGENCY REVIEW OF OPIUM SUPPLY AND DEMAND SITUATION AND OF SOURCES FOR US REQUIREMENTS OF OPIUM FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES. WE EXPECT TO COMPLETE THIS REVIEW AND DEVELOP A USG POSITION BY LATE FALL IN TIME FOR THE DISCUSSION OF THE

MATTER AT THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CND IN EARLY 1974. WE WOULD NOT BE IN A POSITION TO ATTEND A MEETIN IN LATE AUGUST AND WOULD NOT WISH AT THIS TIME TO EXPRESS A VIEW ON WHETHER AN INFORMAL MEETING AS PROPOSED TO GREENFIELD WOULD BE DESIRABLE OR HELPFUL.

3. WE ARE INTERESTED IN IMPRESSION MISSION OFFICER HAS THAT INCB SECRETARY NOT SURE WHETHER INTERNATIONAL MEETING NECESSARY THIS SUMMER. WE CAN WELL UNDERSTAND THAT BOARD WOULD BE IN BETTER POSITION TO EVALUATE SITUATION AFTER INDIAN OFFICIAL PRODUCTION FIGURES FOR 1972-73 HAVE BEEN RECEIVED.

4. LATEST USG INFORMATION ON INDIAN PRODUCTION ESTIMATES AND PROJECTIONS CONTAINED IN REF B, DATED JUNE 12, WHICH WAS REPEATED TO YOU. WE ASSUME EMBASSY NEW DELHI'S INFORMATSOURCES. YOU ARE AUTHORIZED CONVEY INFORMATION PARAGRAPHS 1 AND 2 REFTEL TO DITTELT ON CLASSIFIED BASIS IN RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST PARAGRAPH 5 REF A.

5. WHEN BOARD'S CURRENT CALCULATIONS ON OPIUM SITUATION ARE COMPLETE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING BOARD SECRETARY'S ASSESSMENT OF WORLD DEMAND- SUPPLY SITUATION AND HIS VIEW ABOUT NEED FOR EXPANSION OF PRODUCTION BEYOND THAT PROJECTED FOR 1973-74. WE SHOULD ALSO BE GRATEFUL FOR BOARD'S ESTIMATE OF SUFFICIENCY OF SUPPLIES FOR MEETING MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS IN OTHER MAIN CONSUMING COUNTRIES. WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHETHER THERE IS INCREASING CONCERN WORLDWIDE ABOUT ADEQUACY OF OPIUM SUPPLIES FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES AND WHETHER THERE ARE LIKELY TO BE
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INITIATIVES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES FOR A MEETING ON THIS SUBJECT BEFORE MATTER IS DISCUSSED BY CND AT SPECIAL MEETING SCHEDULED FOR EARLY 1974.

6. WE SHOULD ALSO LIKE TO KNOW WHEN PLANS ARE FIRM FOR VISIT BOARD PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY TO INDIA FOR PURPOSE INTER ALIA OF REVIEW OF INDIAN OPIUM CONTROL SYSTEM. RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 10 MAY 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: worrelsw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE130654
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: S/ NM: HRWELLMAN: BB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P750008-1215
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730768/abqcemsu.tel
Line Count: 105
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: A) GENEVA 3157 B) NEW DELHI 6828
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: worrelsw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Sep-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <27 FEB 2002 by worrelsw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status:
Subject: NARCOTICS: OPIUM REQUIREMENTS FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES
TAGS: OCON, SNAR, SZ, OCON
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005